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☐ INTERNAL
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Approved For Release 2005/07/13 : CIA-RDP77M00144R000600020009-8

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Office of Legislative Counsel
6C19 Hq.

EXTENSION

NO.

OLC 75-2682

DATE

24 October 1975

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DD/P&M
4E60 Hq.

2.

C/ISSG/O
1E4838

3.

EO/DDA
7D26

4.

C/CS/OC
604 Mag.

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RECEIVED

FORWARDED

6/29/75

1/30/75

10/30/75

Donald Eirich, GAO, has written in asking for formal written response to the questions that he posed to me telephonically several weeks ago.

Attached for your comment is a proposed reply. George Cary will sign unless you feel someone else should.

Assistant Legislative Counsel

asked to respond soonest and no later than 30 Oct.

PROPOSED REPLY

Mr. Donald L. Eirich
Associate Director
United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Eirich:

This is in reply to your letter of 6 October 1975 to the Director requesting that the Agency respond to several questions to assist in your evaluation of the computer and communication security proposed for the Internal Revenue Service's new Tax Administration System.

As was explained to you by [] computer and communication systems are clearly vulnerable to technical compromise unless protected by encoding and other protective measures. Our concern is solely the foreign threat to national security information which is clearly recognized and the systems maintained by the Central Intelligence Agency are so protected. Also, we can only comment on the foreign intelligence aspects of the problem since the domestic threat is clearly a matter for comment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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The efforts of certain foreign intelligence organizations against national security agencies and national security information to acquire communications information by wiretapping and other means are clearly documented. Documentation concerning efforts against other targets is not clear. It must be presumed, however, that the opposition directs these efforts against all targets to meet its requirements. In this regard, with the increasing importance of economic intelligence, the threat of clandestine collection efforts to develop such data cannot be overlooked or underestimated.

Though we have no indications of a concerted foreign directed collection effort for tax data, a foreign intelligence organization could make valuable use of tax data concerning individuals and organizations of interest. If the tax data is so maintained as to allow the compromise of specific targets, the threat would be decidedly increased.

In sum, this Agency recognizes the importance of tax data to a foreign intelligence organization in specific cases. We feel, however, that a judgment as to the sensitivity of tax data overall is a matter for the Internal Revenue Service to decide and we offer no comment in that regard.

Sincerely,

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET 733-2

SUBJECT: (Optional)

1143

FROM:

Office of Legislative Counsel
6C19 Hq.

EXTENSION

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1. C/ISSG/OS
1E4838

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JH

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Please respond soonest and no later than 30 October.

cc: EO/DDA, C/CS/OC,
DD/P&M/OS

Pat,
Sounder feni
to me & Mr. R.
Agrees
OS

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OLC 75-2682

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29 OCT 1975

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The response to GAO's letter is being coordinated with the Offices of Security and Communications. Would you please look it over to assure that we are factually correct i.e. there are no indications of a concerted foreign directed collection effort for tax data.

Would appreciate your comments soonest.

STAT

To 5.
DDO offices Agree with the proposed Reply in that computer systems ARE vulnerable etc. Also Agree with ORAL CONVERSATION with you that TAX DATA would Be a minimum value Except in special cases.

STAT

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OLC - RM. 6C19

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ATTENTION:

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

cc: EO/DDA, C/CS/OC,
C/ISSG/OS

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To 5 - LOOKS GOOD AS IS

D/Dir. of Security (P&M)

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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